

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Sub 7 1. (Currently Amended) An interference screw for use in securing a tissue graft to a bone, comprising:

a threaded body extending between a proximal end and a distal end along a central axis and being sized and configured for threadable insertion into a bone tunnel, the threaded body further comprising:

a proximal threaded section comprising a proximal thread having an average diameter and an angled face with an angle relative to the central axis in a range of about 10° to about 80°; and

a distal threaded section, disposed between the proximal threaded section and the distal end, comprising a distal thread having ~~an average~~ a constant diameter that is less than the average diameter of the proximal threaded section,

the proximal and distal threads having the same pitch.

A. 2. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, further including a recess, centered on the central axis and extending from the face at least partially through the interference screw, that is sized and configured to receive at least a portion of a drive shaft of a driver used to threadably insert the interference screw into a bone tunnel.

3. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, further including a tapered section disposed between the distal threaded section and the distal end that facilitates insertion of the distal end of the interference screw into a bone tunnel.

4. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the proximal threaded section is separated from the distal threaded section by a transition section.

5. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 4, wherein the transition section is threaded and tapered.

6. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the threaded body includes a single continuous thread of continuous pitch and helix angle extending between the proximal and distal ends, the interference screw optionally including a non-threaded portion adjacent at least one of the proximal or distal ends.

7. (Currently Amended) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the angle of the face corresponds to an angle of a bone tunnel into which the interference screw is threadably inserted so that, upon threadably inserting the interference screw into ~~the~~ a bone tunnel, the face is substantially parallel to a bone surface surrounding the bone tunnel when the interference screw is oriented at an appropriate rotational angle.

8. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the face has an angle relative to the central axis in a range of about 20° to about 60°.

9. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the face has an angle relative to the central axis in a range of about 30° to about 40°.

10. (Currently Amended) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the proximal and distal threaded sections~~ section has a constant diameter.

11. (Currently Amended) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the proximal and distal threaded sections~~ section is at least partially tapered.

12. (Currently Amended) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, ~~wherein the bone tunnel is surrounded by a cortical bone region extending from a bone surface and a cancellous bone region extending beneath the cortical bone region,~~ wherein the proximal threaded section of the interference screw is sized so as to lie substantially ~~within the~~ adjacent to cortical bone ~~region,~~ and the ~~second~~ distal threaded section is sized so as to lie substantially ~~within the~~ adjacent to cancellous bone ~~region,~~ when the interference screw is completely inserted into ~~the~~ a bone tunnel during use.

13. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the interference screw comprises at least one of poly-L-lactic acid, titanium, or stainless steel.

14. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the proximal threaded section is in a range of about 10 mm to about 12 mm and the average diameter of the distal threaded section is in a range of about 9 mm to about 11 mm.

15. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the proximal threaded section is about 1 mm greater than the average diameter of the distal threaded section.

16. (Original) An interference screw as defined in claim 1, wherein the interference screw has a length in a range of about 35 mm to about 40 mm.

17. (Currently Amended) An interference screw for use in securing a tissue graft to a bone, comprising:

a threaded body extending between a proximal end and a distal end along a central axis and being sized and configured for threadable insertion into a bone tunnel, the threaded body further comprising:

a proximal threaded section sized and configured so as to lie adjacent to cortical bone when the interference screw is completely inserted into the a bone tunnel, the proximal threaded section having an average diameter ~~that is constant throughout at least a portion of the proximal threaded section;~~

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a distal threaded section sized and configured so as to lie adjacent to cancellous bone when the interference screw is completely inserted into the a bone tunnel, the distal threaded section having ~~an average a constant diameter that is constant throughout at least a portion of the distal threaded section, wherein the average diameter of the distal threaded section is less than the average diameter of the proximal threaded section;~~

a single continuous thread of uniform pitch extending between the proximal and distal ends; and

a tapered section disposed between the distal threaded section and the distal end that facilitates insertion of the distal end of the interference screw into a bone tunnel, wherein the tapered section is optionally threaded.

~~a recess, centered on the central axis and extending from the proximal end at least partially through the interference screw, that is sized and configured to receive at least a portion of a drive shaft of a driver used to threadably insert the interference screw into a bone tunnel.~~

18. (Currently Amended) An interference screw as defined in claim 17, ~~wherein the bone tunnel is formed at a predetermined angle relative to a bone surface surrounding the bone tunnel and~~ wherein the proximal threaded section further includes a face that is obliquely angled relative to the central axis so that, upon threadably inserting the interference screw into ~~the a~~ bone tunnel formed at a predetermined angle relative to a bone surface surrounding the bone tunnel, the face is substantially parallel to the bone surface when the interference screw is oriented at an appropriate rotational angle.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An interference screw as defined in claim 17, wherein the proximal threaded section is separated from the distal threaded section by a ~~threaded and tapered~~ transition section.

21. (Currently Amended) An interference screw for use in securing a tissue graft to a bone, comprising:

a threaded body extending between a proximal end and a distal end along a central axis and being sized and configured for threadable insertion into a bone tunnel, the threaded body further comprising:

a proximal threaded section sized and configured so as to lie adjacent to cortical bone when the interference screw is completely inserted into ~~the~~ a bone tunnel, the proximal threaded section having an average diameter that is constant throughout at least a portion of the proximal threaded section, ~~the proximal threaded section including an angled face with an angle relative to the central axis in a range of about 10° to about 80°;~~

a distal threaded section sized and configured so as to lie adjacent to cancellous bone when the interference screw is completely inserted into ~~the~~ a bone tunnel, the distal threaded section having ~~an average~~ a constant diameter that ~~is constant throughout at least a portion of the distal threaded section, wherein the average diameter of the distal threaded section is less than the average diameter of the proximal threaded section; and~~

a single continuous thread of uniform pitch extending between the proximal and distal ends.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) An interference screw as defined in claim 16, wherein the proximal threaded section has a length of about 5 mm.

24. (New) An interference screw for use in securing a tissue graft to a bone, comprising:

a threaded body extending between a proximal end and a distal end along a central axis and being sized and configured for threadable insertion into a bone tunnel, the threaded body further comprising:

a proximal threaded section sized and configured so as to lie adjacent to cortical bone when the interference screw is completely inserted into a bone tunnel, the proximal threaded section having an average diameter;

a distal threaded section sized and configured so as to lie adjacent to cancellous bone when the interference screw is completely inserted into a bone tunnel, the distal threaded section having a constant diameter that is less than the average diameter of the proximal threaded section;

a threaded and tapered transition section disposed between the distal and proximal threaded sections and having increasing diameter from the distal threaded section to the proximal threaded section; and

a tapered end disposed between the distal threaded section and the distal end that facilitates insertion of the distal end of the interference screw into a bone tunnel.

25. (New) A method of securing a soft tissue graft to a bone, comprising:

forming a bone tunnel of constant diameter through a bone so that the bone tunnel is surrounded by a cortical bone region and a cancellous bone region;

inserting a soft tissue graft at least partially through the bone tunnel; and

threadably inserting a single interference screw having a length in a range of about 35 mm to about 40 mm and comprising portions of varying diameter into the bone tunnel in order for the interference screw to apply a greater compressive force against the soft tissue graft in the cortical bone region of the bone tunnel and a lesser compressive against the soft tissue graft in the cancellous bone region.